developmental activities is shared on 75:25 basis between the Government of India and the State/UT Governments.

(c) During the last two years, no Central assistance has been sanctioned to the State Government of Tamil Nadu under the above scheme as they are having an unspent balance of Rs. 25.42 lakhs released to them during the year 2002-03.

MSP for Millet

†2059. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to increase the support price of millet;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government have given instruction to Food Corporation of India with regard to direct purchase of millet from farmers at the said support price; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The Government has announced the Price Policy for Kharif Crops of 2005-06 Season including millets, on 20th April, 2005. Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for millets namely Bajra and Jowar have been fixed at Rs. 525 per quintal each compared to Rs. 515 per quintal each fixed for 2004-05 season.

(b) and (c) Procurement of coarse grains including Bajra and Jowar, from farmers under price support operations is presently being entirely undertaken by the State Governments and their Agencies.

Demand and supply of fodder

2060. DR. M. A. M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a huge gap between demand and supply of fodder in the country;

(b) if so, the present demand and supply of fodder in the country; State-wise;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) the steps taken by the Central Government to reduce this gap;

(d) whether the Central Government propose to start a new scheme for fodder development;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the time by which this new scheme is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. It is generally estimated that there is an overall deficit of around 30 to 40% in the availability of dry and green fodder as compared to the requirement. The availability of fodder in the country State-wise is given in Statement (See below)

(c) to (f) Government of India is implementing the following schemes to reduce the gap between demand and supply of fodder:

(i) Central Fodder Development Organisation comprising 7 Regional Stations for Forage Production and Demonstration and 1 Central Fodder seed Production Farm for production of high yielding varieties of fodder seeds, training and demonstration on fodder production.

(ii) A new Centrally sponsored Fodder Development Scheme with 4 components *viz.,* establishment of Fodder Block making Unit (25% Central Subsidy), Grassland Development including Grass Reserves (100% Central Grant), Fodder Seed Production (75% Central Grant on procurement of Fodder Seeds) and Biotechnology Research Project (100% Central Grant).

Central assistance is provided to the States to supplement their efforts for fodder development.

Statement

State-wise availability of fodder

Sl. No.	State	Total Fodder Production (000 tonnes)
1.2.	Andhra Pradesh	40293
3.4.	Arunachal Pradesh	8249
5.	Assam	9117
	Bihar	16957
	Chhattisgarh	25919

Sl. No.	State	Total Fodder Production (000 tonnes)
6.	Goa	421
7.	Gujarat	72894
8.	Haryana	37666
9.	Himachal Pradesh	5417
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	8652
11.	Jharkhand	7542
12.	Karnataka	35563
13.	Kerala	2766
14.	Madhya Pradesh	60450
15.	Maharashtra	140073
16.	Manipur	1442
17.	Meghalaya	1742
18.	Mizoram	2979
19.	Nagaland	2219
20.	Orissa	14148
21.	Punjab	54863
22.	Rajasthan	133836
23.	Sikkim	704
24.	Tamil Nadu	31929
25.	Tripura	1660
26.	Uttar Pradesh	116621
27.	Uttaranchal	21453
28.	West Bengal	23530
29.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	1088
30.	Chandigarh	83
31.	Daman & Diu	64
32.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	47
33.	Delhi	144
34.	Lakshadweep	0
35.	Pondicherry	85
	ALL INDIA :	880818

Indo-US collaboration in agriculture sector

2061. SHRIMATI JAMANA DEVI BARUPAL:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether farm pacts to provide fillip to bio-tech and drought resistant